

Reduction in Weight Allowances, Time Limitations, Unaccompanied Air Express, and Related Benefits Pertaining to Shipments of Household Goods and Effects

"The weight and volume of household goods which may be shipped is being reduced by approximately 20 percent. The Committee learned that the problem of weight limits had not been studied since 1919 when personnel were shipping washstands and wardrobes instead of refrigerators and radios as at present. A study of nearly eight hundred cases showed that the great majority of personnel were not using the total allowances provided and so will not be affected. However, the regulations are being revised to provide authorization for one more shipment in excess of the new regulations from the employee's most recent or present post of assignment to his designated place of residence.

"A more restrictive time limit is being placed on shipping household goods. Instead of the present one year provided in the Travel Regulations, the time limit on outgoing shipments and between posts, is being cut to 6 months, and in cases of resignation, retirement, or separation, 3 months will be the limit. This is not designed to work hardship but rather to recapture obligated travel funds for use during the fiscal year by other employees.

"Consumable goods have become a problem in recent years since the Department felt it was supplementing allowances by shipping consumables on household goods weight allowances. The new regulations will read 'Not over 5% of the authorized maximum weight allowance or 2½ percent of the authorized maximum allowance by volume may be utilized for shipment of provisions, viz: foodstuffs, drugs, tobacco products, and toilet articles.' (This is in addition to the allowances for potables.)

"The regulations are being tightened on the shipment of excess baggage in that 'no unaccompanied baggage may be transported by air express or air freight when travel is performed by the exclusive use of surface transportation.' Also, since baggage has been defined as required for 'immediate use' the regulations will read 'the transportation of unaccompanied baggage by air freight, air express, surface freight or express must be initiated not later than thirty days after the traveler completes his travel.'

"Travel in connection with service separations must begin within 90 days of the effective date of the separation. Provision is made for justifiable exceptions in hardship cases."